

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Decision on Appeal mailed April 15, 2008. Claims 1-35 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-11, 14-23, and 29-35 are in condition for allowance. This Amendment cancels claims 12, 13, and 24-28, without adding or amending any claims, leaving pending in the application allowable claims 1-11, 14-23, and 29-35. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Discussion

The undersigned representative for Applicants discussed the decision with the Examiner on June 16, 2008. In the discussion, the Examiner indicated that filing of the present response canceling the claims where the rejection was affirmed would result in allowance of the remaining claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's help and guidance in this matter, and have canceled the claims where the rejection was upheld. Accordingly, all remaining claims should be in condition for allowance.

II. Allowable Claims

Claims 1-11, 14-23, and 29-35 are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections affirmed by the Board

The rejection of claims 12, 13, and 24-28 was affirmed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. These claims are canceled from the present application. As such, all remaining claims should be in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/636,418
Amdt. dated June 16, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2008

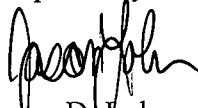
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason D. Lohr
Reg. No. 48,163

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 925-472-5000
Fax: 415-576-0300
JDL:slh
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